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1960-06-02, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1960-06-02

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1960-06-02

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2 June 60
8³⁰_{pm}

Mom and Daddy,

This probably won't be very long because I am at Ray's house and the eternal television is going. We just finished supper of rib steaks, boiled roasting ears, and sliced tomatoes. Not very fancy, but we are both stuffed. He had a maddening thing happen to us yesterday. He came by his room to get him ready to go play Bingo at the club and we found his refrigerator completely defrosted like mine was about 2 weeks ago. I had to give away close to \$20 worth of meat then and Ray had 2 big rib steaks, a whole fried chicken, 2 pkg of frozen corn, 3 pkg of raspberries, a pound of Danish sausage and a pound of bacon, also 2 big pork chops. Naturally we couldn't save it all. The Arab who is supposed to clean his room had apparently unplugged it early yesterday a.m. - So tonight we ate the steaks and I fried the chicken for us to munch on cold tomorrow afternoon. He usually goes to the club for

-2-

"Happy Hour" - $\frac{1}{2}$ -priced beer -
from 5³⁰ to 6³⁰ each Friday that
we are off - then we come home to
eat - so supper's nearly ready
for tomorrow. I boiled some
potatoes and I will boil eggs
when I get off duty tomorrow pm -
and make potato salad to go
with the chicken - He will probably
loose the pork chops + bacon
because Ray won't cook breakfast
on the weekends if I'm working.
He will play golf on an empty
tummy and come by for me
starved at 3 pm -

Ray got his orders to go
pick up his car in Germany
at the factory and drive it to the
port at Bremerhaven, Germany. He
will go next weekend to get it.

Time is getting short for us.
He has 4 weeks and 3 days before
we say bye for awhile. I am
trying very hard not to let him
know how badly I feel because
he is nearly in tears when
he mentions it. Of course he
is eager to get back to the
U.S. after 40 months, but he
doesn't want to leave me here
any more than I like staying.
It won't be too long, but we
spend so much time doing

things together³ that I'm going
to have lots of empty hours
until I get used to his being
gone.

I got the box of things, Mom
and I can't tell you how I
appreciate it all. The shoes are
lovely, but, Mom, I can't wear
either pair. I must have told
you the wrong size, because
they both are too big. I nearly
had a fit over the beige ones
especially. Carol wanted them as
soon as I showed them to her. So,
if you will tell me how much they
cost, I'll have the cash for you. I
don't know if anyone needs the white
ones. They are about $\frac{1}{2}$ size too long
for me. I think they are lovely. If
I can't sell them this weekend I'll
mail them back to you. I'm sorry
to be such a bother, Mom, but I
guess I wear an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ medium and
9 narrow or A width in play shoes.
The little curls are terrific. I'd
never used them before. I have
a hair net on my bun in the
back now.

We had company - 2 Mrs. Laker
- a boy and
gave we play golf with - and they
ate all the chicken we had for
tomorrow so I guess we eat out.
Ray said to tell you, he'd be

around to see you about the 20th
of July - give or take a few days -
Don't plan on him - as far as house-
cleaning goes. He will be on his
way back from his folks' home
to ~~start on~~ Seymour Johnson in D.C.

I'll write more later about the
C-47 incident because it's pretty
hot here right now - All 9 of the
persons including the Doctor &
his nurse wife will be sent to
the U.S. immediately for good -
I'll say more later.

I'm brown as a nut - a good
weekend at the beach - hope I
can go again this weekend; so I
won't lose it -

Maj. Michalka told me today
that I would be put in charge
of the Medical Ward 28 June
when the present Captain Rotates.
I don't like medicine particularly
but it's better than being pushed
around.

I'll quit for now - more later -
hope you both are better - Helen
& the kids & Jody will be there
in no time - take some pictures!

Love M.

Bette